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MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SOIL CONSERVATION
SERVICE AND THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
RELATING TO SERVICES TO BE FURNISHED BY
THE ARS UNDER THE WATERSHED PROTECTION APPROPRIATION ITEM

To assist in carrying out its responsibilities for work under the Watershed Protection Appropriation Item, the Soil Conservation Service desires to utilize specialized assistance available in the Agricultural Research Service and the two Services therefore mutually agree as follows:

I. Kinds of Work to be Undertaken:

A. Assistance in the Preparation of Departmental Policy Recommendations.

The Agricultural Research Service will provide technical assistance to the Soil Conservation Service, upon request, as provided for under Section II of this agreement, in the preparation of recommendations to the Department for the development of the Nation's land and water resources and assist it in the formulation and adaptation of principles, policies, criteria and procedural guides for administering the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act.

B. Assistance in economic evaluation of plans for works of improvement.

When requested by the Soil Conservation Service, the Agricultural Research Service will work cooperatively with personnel of the Soil Conservation Service and cooperating State and local agencies in the furtherance of work plan development and the determination of the economic justification of proposed works of improvement as required by the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act. The application of the general principles and criteria of program formulation and evaluation contained in statements of policy issued by the Department and by the Bureau of the Budget often present difficult problems under field conditions. Assistance by Agricultural Research Service staff members will be provided in developing practical procedures for local application of the economic principles and criteria involved.

The Agricultural Research Service will assist in making determinations such as the following: (1) need for added products or services which would be provided by the works of improvement; (2) appraisal of watershed damages; (3) appraisal of expected benefits; (4) appraisal of economic costs of works of improvement and allocation to project purposes when necessary; and (5) development of scale of project in accordance with established criteria of economic feasibility.

C. Assistance in measuring the economic results of pilot watershed protection project.

In connection with the physical and economic evaluation of watershed protection projects, the Agricultural Research Service will, upon request of the Soil Conservation Service, assist in two types of evaluation studies: (1) detailed evaluation studies of pilot watershed protection projects selected for intensive evaluations; and (2) generalized benefit-cost estimates in the remaining pilot watershed protection projects.

Scope and Objective of Studies. The sample evaluation work plan issued April 20, 1954, by the Soil Conservation Service provides primarily for the standardization of objectives, presentation of information, and cooperative arrangements for watershed projects selected for intensive evaluation. The broad objective of project evaluation is to appraise the effects of a watershed protection program in both physical and economic terms. The evaluation is intended to determine the economic benefits realized from the watershed program.

Area of Studies. Studies will be made in all pilot watersheds selected for intensive evaluation. Studies in the other pilot watersheds will be undertaken as required to balance out the major types of evaluation problems for certain factors under measurement. The Agricultural Research Service will, upon request of the Soil Conservation Service, assist in the less intensive evaluations where special problems are involved.

General Procedure of Economic Investigation. The procedures for making various economic measurements and analysis will be worked out cooperatively in accordance with the annual work plan, taking into consideration policies, procedures, and techniques established for carrying out the program. The Agricultural Research Service will assist the Soil Conservation Service in the development of schedules, selection of samples and in the collection of data required for this evaluation. Determinations or measurements such as the following may be required:

1. Selection of those practices and measures for which full appraisal is desired.
2. Map and locate selected measures and practices; "A" measures by specific site.
3. For those measures and practices having off-site effects, determine the limits of their zone of influence. Account will be taken of interrelations of measures and practices in the analyses of programs.

4. At appropriate intervals of time (varying according to the measure being appraised and frequency of damage) economic effects of the measures and practices will be observed and appraised. Arrangements will be made with selected farmers to maintain records of certain types of information. The appraisal will be based on changes in: (a) land use, yield and quality of product; (b) inundation damage; (c) damage from deposition; (d) damage from scour; (e) damage from gullying; and (f) production costs.
5. Special observations may be required for appraising damages such as (a) sedimentation of lakes, ponds, reservoirs, harbors, and other waterways, and (b) flood damages outside the watershed in cases where such losses may be reduced by the program being studied.
6. At appropriate intervals of time, appraise the performance of local sponsoring organizations, record the cash and other contributions they make, and analyze the factors affecting their ability to carry out their responsibilities in watershed programs.
7. Allocation of off-site effects to the installed measures or practices or combinations thereof.

D. Assistance on special economic evaluations problems.

Work of a specialized and detailed nature will be undertaken when it is mutually decided that such work will contribute to the successful establishment of the program.

The nature and scope of such studies will be agreed upon between the Soil Conservation Service and Agricultural Research Service. Such studies as the following may be included: (a) development of economic techniques and methods for use in work plan preparation, (b) special problems encountered in particular areas or associated with particular measures, (c) problems associated with obtaining local participation and cooperation, (d) analysis of experience in dealing with problems encountered by local organizations in meeting their responsibilities in program operations, and (e) assembly of basic economic data essential for project formulation and justification.

E. Assistance in review and analysis of the economic aspects of resource development proposals.

In accordance with procedures of the Inter-Agency Committee on Water Resources, the Department reviews reports on resource development proposals prepared by other Federal agencies and participates in developing Federal policy relating to the preparation of such proposals. Under this arrangement the Agricultural Research Service, at the request of the Soil Conservation Service, reviews and analyzes the economic aspects of proposed land and water resource projects and programs of other Federal agencies. It also participates with other Federal agencies in developing uniform national evaluation criteria.

The Agricultural Research Service will continue to provide such assistance as is requested in the field of economics relating to Inter-Agency affairs. The ultimate aim of this cooperative effort will be to unify and improve procedures and evaluation practices by the several Federal agencies interested in land and water resource conservation and development programs.

II. Procedure for selection of specific work assignments:

Within the limits of this agreement and the amount of funds transferred, a general plan will be prepared by the Soil Conservation Service and the Agricultural Research Service covering the work to be undertaken each year. This annual plan will include a list of the principal problems on which assistance is needed, procedures to be followed, cooperation to be developed with other Federal, State and local agencies, and a schedule of reports to be prepared. The work plan will indicate the Agricultural Research Service personnel available for assistance to the Soil Conservation Service as indicated under Part I, and the approximate time that can be allocated to such work by each staff member so assigned. Mutually acceptable adjustments in this annual working schedule will be made as necessary.

III. Agricultural Research Service cooperation with Federal, State and local agencies:

In carrying out field investigational work covered by this agreement, the Agricultural Research Service will cooperate with Federal, State and local agencies, including State colleges and regional groups, in accordance with the provisions of the annual work plan.

IV. Issuance of reports:

Reports will be issued as mutually agreed upon and after approval by all cooperating agencies, through established channels of the Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Research Service, or cooperating agencies.

V. Transfer of funds:

It is agreed that Soil Conservation Service will annually transfer funds to the Agricultural Research Service for credit to a working fund account to be established from funds included under the Watershed Protection appropriation item for such plan of work as may be mutually agreed to under the provisions of Section II. It is mutually agreed that \$30,000 will be transferred to the Agricultural Research Service in the fiscal year 1955 and \$100,000 in the fiscal year 1956, and additional amounts for subsequent fiscal years, all annual amounts to be subject to mutual agreement on a plan of work as provided for in Section II and to the availability of funds therefor.

VI. Progress reports:

The Agricultural Research Service will make an annual report to the Soil Conservation Service on accomplishments under the work plan provided for in Section II, and will include a report on expenditures for each of the principal types of work outlined therein. Other reports will be made upon request.

VII. This Memorandum of Agreement shall become effective as of date of approval and shall continue in effect until modified by mutual agreement or until terminated by either party by giving not less than 60 days' notice in writing to the other party.

1/24/55

Date

/s/ D. A. Williams

D. A. Williams, Administrator
Soil Conservation Service

1/27/55

Date

/s/ B. T. Shaw

B. T. Shaw, Administrator
Agricultural Research Service

Approved:

3/10/55

Date

/s/ E. L. Peterson

Assistant Secretary



